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### Procurement of Recent and Current Photography

1. One of the major bottlenecks to the fullest utilization of photo intelligence in C.I.A. is the procurement of satisfactory aerial photography soon after the reconnaissance has been made. At present, C.I.A. rarely has access to current aerial photography until it is 4 to 6 months old, often it is a year old.

2. At present the Reconnaissance Squadrons send copies of their product through Air Force channels to Reconnaissance Branch, A-2, AF. This takes about a week from the Far East. In Washington the pictures are received at the Photo Interpretation Section, where they are sorted for interest. Those of interest are held for study. Routine tactical photography and other material from over Korea are routed immediately to the Central Film Library, Air AG. Generally speaking those reconnaissance runs in which we have an interest are held at PIR. It takes at least three months for this unit to process, interpret and report upon these runs, all of which is done before the original prints are sent forward to CIL. Once in the CIL three photographs are available to us.

3. C.I.A. learns of current photography through Mission Review Reports issued by the Air Force. It is not possible for us to know from these brief summaries, based almost entirely on AF requirements, whether or not the run contains information of interest to C.I.A. It is safe to say that every run has geographic interest. For security reasons we cannot alert the Air Force scanning officer to our most critical needs. Once the photography has reached the Air AG, we can order it printed for our use. This is done through CIL. For internal reasons of the AF, it takes a minimum of three weeks to get a print from Air AG unless CR puts a high priority on the print. Then it takes about two weeks. Thus the photography is at least 4 months old when it reaches C.I.A. THIS WOULD APPLY TO PHOTOGRAPHY REQUESTED FROM BY C.I.A. AS WELL AS FROM AF.

4. After this long wait the prints received at C.I.A. may as well be called second class. They are printed from copy negatives. There is considerable loss in detail and in quality, especially in the highlights and shadows through the inevitable increase in contrast due to copying.

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5. The same difficulty was encountered by Washington Agencies during World War II. The Photo Intelligence Unit set up in MIS, C-2, WDCS carried on much the same functions as those for the proposed unit in C.I.A. There there was developed a very close coordination between photo intelligence and current intelligence. This liaison became so profitable that for the last four months of operation out of Guam a skilled photo intelligence officer was assigned as a Special SOG to General Lacey. This was in order to have within the MIU organization direct contact with Reconnaissance so specific ocean targets could be laid on for use in current intelligence by MIU. In this case the analysis was made at Guam and cabled to MIS within hours of the landing of the Reconnaissance plane. This arrangement was ideal for MIS and for SO BOCs.

6. Previous to the assignment of a photo intelligence SOG to Guam, MIS had arrived at a satisfactory working arrangement with the Field. At first this was distinctly covert. Later it became through custom to be overt. The processing laboratory attached to the Reconnaissance Squadron working with SO BOCs supplied the regular SOG at SO BOCs with a full set of prints of each run over Japan or Japanese-held territory. These photographs were immediately dispatched by pouch directly to the PIU in MIS. Through this system we received first class prints from the original negatives in 5 to 6 days from the date of photography. While this system never was approved - it had never been breached - by Air Force it had the sanction of the Commanding General in the field.

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7. I believe that a similar system can be set up at this time. [redacted] were to ask that a set of prints of the runs over specified areas, when ever made, be sent to him. I suspect that the Field would approve it. These prints then could be dispatched by pouch to Cryptic Register where they would be available for use by the photo intelligence personnel in C.I.A. We would then have first class prints with no copying degradation to work with we would not have to justify to the Air AD our need for TS material in his handling and we would save about 11 weeks time in procurement of the photography.

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